

"TANTUM BREVISSIME DICO."

Written for the ADVOCATE.

As most of the necessities, conveniences and luxuries of life are the product of labor, these products are virtually wealth. A country that from its forests, mines and extensive natural agricultural facilities, can furnish, through the medium of labor, all the necessities and conveniences, with most of the luxuries, possesses within itself that which should render it independent of all others; and it is evident that its most important residents are those who by their labor and intelligence develop these resources, and that each and every individual of this class is entitled to a share of this wealth in proportion to his own contribution. As what are termed necessities are peremptorily required for the existence of labor; a condition in which these are its only reward, is one of most abject servitude. An equitable distribution of the products of labor should protect all the industrious from privation.

The establishment of national schools tends to create a desire for a more intellectual life than is consistent with constant toil; even if this toil be exempt from physical inconveniences.

A fair distribution among the industrious of their own products, would obviate the necessity of continual labor, and afford leisure and opportunity for a higher mental and physical culture.

As the distribution by barter of the industrial productions of a large community, is in a great measure impracticable, for the exchange of these commodities, it should be obligatory upon the government to provide some means of representing their values, a means that could be furnished commensurate with their necessary increase.

A currency issued by the government upon the security of this actual wealth of the country should suffice for all purposes of internal commerce; all necessary importation could be paid from its mines of precious metals silver at its commercial value, making up any deficiency in gold.

Centralized industries carried on with enormous capital tend to disturb the balance of supply and demand and produce fluctuation of prices conducive to bankruptcy. And in many instances they become petty tyrannies. Co-operative industries organized on a smaller scale and with regard to convenience of locality, would tend more to commercial equipoise. By such arrangements there would be more reciprocal consumption and less liability to a disproportion of production.

The evils resulting from the competition of the necessities for speculative purposes, should find their remedy in the establishment of a graduated income tax. The practicability of this tax depends upon the subversion of the present plutocracy.

A government under any name, that aimed to force an equality of condition upon its people, could only be of the worst form of tyranny. Yet it is possible for any government to give its subjects equality of opportunity. But the manner in which capital arrogates all advantages is plain robbery of the people at large of their rights to opportunity.

LACON.

The Dressed Beef Investigation.

The United States Senate committee appointed to investigate the dressed beef combine, has just concluded its sitting in Chicago. It has been denied that any such combination exists and the grievances of farmers and stock raisers have been pronounced purely imaginary. The unwilling testimony of the few witnesses whose attendance was secured before the committee, as well as the testimony of Mr. Haightly and others at Kansas City in June last, establish the fact of the existence of such a combination and clearly reveal its iniquitous character. We have not space this week for a complete report of the testimony but submit below some of the most interesting facts elicited. The principals of the great combine refused to appear before the committee and their testimony was not therefore obtained.

Sylvester Wilcox of Elgin, a large buyer and seller of live stock, and a dealer in dressed beef, testified that there had been a constant decline in the price of beef cattle in the last few years without any decline in the price to the consumer. This decline in the value of beef on foot has been steady and continuous the price in 1889 being nearly one hundred per cent less than in 1880. The witness further testified that the freight tariff on live stock being higher than on dressed beef the small dealers considered it to their advantage to buy dressed beef in Chicago and that thereby Chicago had gained control of the live stock market.

Mr. Halliwell was asked: "Do you not think the depressed condition of trade in St. Louis is due to some kind of combination which discriminates against St. Louis dressed beef in favor of that shipped from Chicago?"

"No sir, I do not."

"Can you give any reason why the St. Louis trade should not be increasing?"

"I am unable to state, unless it be on account of the fact that St. Louis has a reputation for being a little slower than Kansas City or Chicago in getting business."

This caused Senator Vest to exclaim: "Did you never hear of the 'eveners' combination?"

The witness admitted that he had some twelve years ago.

Senator Vest asked: "Well did you not hear that a clique of Chicago shippers made a combination with some of the railroads by which cheaper rates were obtained from Chicago, and that by this St. Louis business was ruined?"

The witness had heard some talk of such things. The Senator pressed him harder and brought in the name of Wilson, Morris and Allerton and some others as having been parties to the "eveners" combination.

"There was a plan by which they receive \$15 a car rebate on meat shipped from Chicago but I think there was a discrimination against Chicago which that rebate did not overcome."

Fred J. Rowland, former chief bookkeeper and confidential man for Nelson, Morris & Co., was asked: "Do you know of any agreement or combination Nelson, Morris & Co., Armour & Co. Swift & Co. and others?"

"Am I obliged to answer that ques-

tion?"

"Yes sir, you are."

"Well they had a combination among themselves."

"A combination for what?"

"A combination to sustain the price of dressed beef. They agreed on certain prices in certain states, and they had matters so arranged that they could pay any price they chose for the animal."

"Tell me," said Senator Vest "have you spoken to any of them since you were subpoenaed to come here?"

"Yes, sir; I was told by the Fairbanks Canning company that I need not come here at all, that it was not necessary."

The following was unanimously passed and the committee adjourned:

Whereas, Philip Armour, Nelson Morris, L. F. Swift, Frank E. Vogel, J. S. Newman and Jacob Meyer, having been duly and lawfully summoned to appear as witnesses before the committee, have repeatedly refused to obey the same, it is ordered that the facts be reported to the chairman of the senate of the United States at its next session in pursuance of chapter 7 of the revised Statutes of the United States.

There was other interesting testimony taken which we have not space to publish, all of which clearly establishes the fact that there is an effective combine which has steadily reduced the price of stock on foot, controlled and monopolized the trade and firmly maintained the price of dressed beef. It is to resist such combinations that the Farmers Alliance is instituted; and it must be apparent to the most casual observer of the current events of the day, that the contest is to be no child's play.

If our present congress fails to enact some effective legislation for the relief of the producing classes it will become necessary to begin at the beginning and place men in these positions who will do so. The action of congress upon the report of this committee and upon the other questions involving the legitimacy of trusts, will be awaited with intense interest by the people.

AN INQUISITION.

The prominent packers of Chicago by persisting in their neglect of the subpoenas issued by Senator Vest's committee have made a mistake. A citizen who fails to exhibit a respect for constituted authority always makes a mistake and in this case there are many reasons why the packers should deal frankly with the committee, even at the risk of unfair treatment by its chairman.

Yet their reluctance to testify about their private business before Senator Vest is not without excuse.

If the senate of the United States had in the interest of farmers appointed a committee to inquire impartially into the causes of low prices for cattle there would be no excuse and a refusal to testify would justly be taken against the recalcitrants as far as the other facts made a prima facie case against them. Senator Vest occupies no such position. He is an ex parte prosecutor of the packing houses. He asked for the committee under an accusation that the packing houses had forced down the price of cattle by a

lawless combination. His speeches admitted no other view than that the packers were public enemies and the packing industry a crime. All during the state legislative sessions of last year he advocated the inspection bills which were frauds on their face, pretending to be sanitary measures when they were intended to crush a beneficial business.

The packers are aware that in appearing before the committee they would be putting themselves in the hands of an avowed enemy, who will use his authority to bullyrag and misrepresent them. They have reason to feel that every possible misconception would be placed upon their answers to questions which would not be guarded by the slightest obligation of fairness or dignity. In the hands of a man whose object in life is to make a case against it there is not an industry in America which could not be made to suffer. A committee chairman armed with power to send for witnesses and papers and viciously inclined to inflict injury, can always find prejudiced or ignorant persons to testify to anything he desires and can annoy the objects of his animosity if he once gets them on a stand in a court of which he is the chief judge and examining lawyer.

The packers were taught last winter that they are to be the prey of a set of demagogues and another set of hoodling legislators for some time to come. The butchers' association with Senator Vest as its attorney, has undertaken the destruction of packing in order that the control of prices to the consumers may be more firmly fixed in the hands of retail butchers. Every corrupt political bummer in the land scents boodle and is going to try to get into a state legislature so that he can force money out of the packers. With the jackals of corruption and demagoguery at their heels it is but natural that the victims should hesitate to go before a committee whose chairman is leader of the pack.

Kansas City's most important manufacturing industry is threatened. Establishments which employ several thousand hands and maintain a great stock market are wantonly assailed. Business processes built up by large investments of capital and scientific appliances are to be jeopardized by a man who has never hesitated to abuse to the utmost his official power to attain the smallest personal end. Evading the inquisition set up by Senator Vest is to be disapproved from one point of view, but Kansas City can hardly avoid an opinion that there is some justification.—Kansas City Times.

A PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Parties who contemplate visiting Topeka during the State Fair (Sept. 16th. to 21st. inclusive) should bear in mind the fact that the "Santa Fe Route," will sell excursion tickets daily, commencing Sunday, September 15th, and continuing until Saturday, Sept. 21st. These tickets will be on sale from all points in Kansas at one fare for the round trip, with price of admission coupon (50 cents) added. Tickets will be limited for return on or before Monday, September 22nd. No one should fail to visit the Fair and the capital city of Kansas. Remember there is no line running as many through express trains into Topeka as the A. T. & S. F. R. Everybody interested in the growth and development of Kansas should take advantage of above low rates.

For further particulars in regard to these excursions, call on E. A. WAGNER, Agent A. T. & S. F. R. R., Meriden or address GEO. T. NICHOLSON, G. P. & T. A., A. T. & S. F. R., TOPEKA, KANSAS.